

NOTICE OF REFERENDUM

Dane County, Wisconsin

November 4, 2014

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at an election to be held in the County of Dane, on November 4, 2014, the following proposed Resolutions of the Dane County Board, will be submitted to a vote of the people:

RES. 133, 2014

REFERENDUM ON INCREASEING THE MINIMUM WAGE IN WISCONSIN

The current minimum wage in Wisconsin is \$7.25/ hour. With that wage, a full-time worker with a 40-hour a week job earns \$15,080 a year.

On that salary, a resident of Dane County cannot afford the basic fundamental needs of housing and food. According to a 2014 report by the National Low Income Housing Coalition, a 1-bedroom apartment in Dane County, one must earn \$14.27/hour, double the state's hourly minimum wage amount.

Dane County has serious racial disparity issues. Individuals working minimum wages jobs in Dane County are disproportionately minority. According to the Race to Equity – Racial Disparities in Dane County Report, released in October of 2013 by the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families, 54% of African American Dane County residents earn poverty wages or less, compared to 8.7% of white. African American children in Dane County are 13 times more likely to be growing up in a family in poverty than while children.

The United States is experiencing an unprecedented rise in income inequality between its highest paid and minimum wage workers. According to the Pew Research Center, America's current income inequality is the highest it has been since the 1920s, just before and during the great depression. The top 10% of Americans earn 80% of the national wealth. The top 1% earns 24% of the wealth. The average CEO in America earns 380 times more than the average worker, let alone a minimum wage worker.

Dane County, Wisconsin, and the United States will not recover from the current economic downturn if full time workers do not earn enough money to survive—to feed and house themselves, their children and their families.

The Center for Economic and Policy Research has found that an increase in the minimum wage does not decrease the number of available jobs or negatively impact on the economy and the number of jobs available. Instead, it increases job productivity and decreases work turnover.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following referendum question be placed on the November 2014 ballot:

Question: Should the State of Wisconsin increase the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour?

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Dane County Clerk shall take all necessary steps to implement this resolution.

EXPLANATION

The current minimum wage in Wisconsin is \$7.25 per hour. Earning that wage, a worker who works forty (40) hour per week earns \$15,080.00 per year.

A “yes” vote means the State should raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour.

A “no” vote means the State should *not* raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour.

RES-176, 2014

REFERENDUM ON HEALTH CARE

The State of Wisconsin has yet to take advantage of billions of new federal Medicaid dollars which would improve the state's BadgerCare program - these federal funds are available at any time, and, upon acceptance, would provide access to BadgerCare to an estimated 84,000 Wisconsin residents.

The decision to reject federal Medicaid funding shrinks the number of Wisconsin residents who have health care coverage while increasing the costs to the state for the BadgerCare program.

Nineteen counties have passed resolutions urging Wisconsin to use these federal funds, a position that has been reiterated by the Wisconsin Counties Association, and these federal funds would bring tens of millions of dollars into the Dane County economy over the next seven years and help an estimated 4,500 parents and childless adults in Dane County gain access to BadgerCare.

Having un-insured and under-insured residents has an impact on the Dane County Human Services Department. It can lead to untreated mental health or substance abuse. Additionally, a lack of preventive health care can lead to job loss, the inability to function, and loss of self-sufficiency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Dane County Clerk to place the following advisory referendum question on the countywide ballot at the election to be held on November 4, 2014:

“Shall the next Governor and State Legislature accept available federal funds for BadgerCare to ensure that thousands of Wisconsin citizens have access to quality and affordable health coverage?”

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Dane County legislative delegation, the Governor, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

EXPLANATION

The State of Wisconsin has not yet accepted available federal funds for Medicaid that would improve the BadgerCare program.

A “yes” vote means that the next Governor and Legislature should accept available federal funds for BadgerCare.

A “no” vote means that the next Governor and Legislature should *not* accept available federal funds for BadgerCare.

Done in the County of Dane, on
November 3, 2014.

Scott McDonell, Dane County Clerk